

#5 (a)



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday April 8th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room via in person or by phone.

1. Call to order:

Mayor Culhane called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call: The Mayor took a roll call

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	☒	☐
Councillor Louanne Caza	☒	☐
Councillor Elaine Fic	☒	☐
Councillor Annie Keft	☒	☐
Councillor Francine Plante	☒	☐

Also Present

Clerk-Treasurer - Karine Pelletier
Acting Superintendent - Mark Brown
Clerk Typist Receptionist - Melanie Jensen
Members of the audience present: 6

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum.

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

119/2025
Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on April 8, 2025 be adopted with addition to #8 (m) Resignation of Recreation Committee member, addition to #8 (n) – I create Website and end of life.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest: Councillor Francine Plante declared a Pecuniary Conflict on item #8(e) Ecole Secondaire Catholique l'Envolee du Nord

5. Adoption of the Previous Minutes and matters arising from the Minutes:

a) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

120/2025
Regular Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 11, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

121/2025
Special Council Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on March 11, 2025 and on March 19, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

6. Delegations, Petitions and Presentations: None

7. Correspondence, Information:

- a) Tribunals Ontario - Confirmation of Certification of Municipal Assessment Roll.
- b) Northeastern Public Health – Community Merger Update / Santé publique du Nord-Est.
- c) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness – Weed Control Act R.S.O. 1990 and appointment of Weed Inspectors.

8. New Business:

- a) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

122/2025
Tourist Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Tourist Centre Committee meeting held on January 21, 2025 be approved.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

123/2025
Emergency Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Emergency Management Planning Committee meeting held on January 22, 2025 be approved with changes.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

124/2025
Proposal Financial Plan

THAT Council have read the Proposal for a Water Financial Plan received from Ontario Clean Water Agency and agree with the proposal including the background, scope of work, deliverables, schedule, project budget of \$7,500.00 plus HST and terms and conditions.

Carried

- d) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

125/2025
KLDCS Bursaries

THAT Council give two (2) bursaries in the amount of \$100.00 each to Kirkland Lake District Composite School to be awarded to local graduates.

Carried

- Councillor Plante declared a pecuniary interest and left the room.

- e) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

126/2025
ESCEN Bursaries

THAT Council give two (2) bursaries in the amount of \$100.00 each to Ecole Secondaire Catholique l'Envolée du Nord to be awarded to local graduates.

Defeated

- Councillor Plante returned to the meeting room.

- f) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

127/2025
Highways Safety

WHEREAS the safety on TransCanada Highways 11 and 17 continues to be a number one concern for residents of Northern Ontario because they are our main streets;

AND WHEREAS these highways are accessed by residents of Northern Ontario to get to work, school, hockey, medical appointments and other commitments for daily life;

AND WHEREAS these residents share these highways with thousands of cross-country commercial trucks;

AND WHEREAS, currently, some poorly trained commercial vehicle drivers and the companies they work for are putting all other drivers at undue risk;

AND WHEREAS Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP), Guy Bourgoïn, Lise Vaugois and John Vanthof, representing three Northern ridings, have lobbied the Government of Ontario, endlessly, for highway safety in Northern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS these MPP's have developed a Northern Highway Safety Plan, dated January 24, 2025, that highlights the current situation, and outlined Immediate Ask, Short-Term, and Long-Term solutions to these ongoing safety concerns on our northern highways;

AND WHEREAS this Northern Highway Safety Plan was presented to the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) by MPP John Vanthof;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry hereby resolves to support the said Northern Highways safety Plan, and all the recommendations contained in the document;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be directed to the Minister of Transportation, and forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; FONOM; TMA; Guy Bourgoïn – MPP Mushkegowuk-James Bay; Lise Vaugois – MPP Thunder Bay-Superior North; John Vanthof – MPP Timiskaming – Cochrane; Opposition Party Leader Marit Stiles – NDP; Liberal Party Leader – Bonnie Crombie; Green Party Leader – Mike Schreiner; and the municipalities in the District of Temiskaming.

Carried

- g) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

128/2025
Tax Sale Report

THAT Council have received and read the Staff Report from the Clerk-Treasurer on Options after Tax Sale and direct the Clerk to register the notice of vesting and vest the properties to the Township and write off the taxes owing and charge the portion paid to the school board.

Properties:

31 Kearns avenue
32 Lynch Avenue

Carried

- h) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

129/2025
Vested Properties Report

THAT Council have received and read the Staff Report from the Clerk-Treasurer on Structures on vested properties and direct the Clerk to sell the properties at the amount previously received from Mrs. Bonnie Devine due to the deteriorating condition of the structure:

Properties:

2 Cockeram Street	-	\$6,000.00
13 Reddick Avenue	-	\$6,000.00
58-60 Connell Avenue	-	\$8,000.00

Carried

- i) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

130/2025
Strategic Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on January 28, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- j) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

131/2025
Repealed By-Law 2023-57

Whereas the Township of McGarry enacted By-Law #2023-57 as a one-year trial program permitting the keeping of backyard chickens within the municipality;

And whereas there has been a recent surge in avian influenza cases detected in our region, posing a significant risk to local poultry populations and public health;

And whereas the Township of McGarry, including Virginiatown, is located within a migratory bird pathway, increasing the risk of transmission of avian influenza from wild birds to domestic poultry;

And whereas municipalities have a responsibility to mitigate potential biosecurity threats and protect both residential and agricultural communities from the spread of infectious diseases;

Now therefore, be it resolved that Council hereby moves to repeal By-Law #2023-57, thereby discontinuing the Backyard Chicken Policy within the Township of McGarry;

And further that staff be directed to notify affected residents of this decision and provide guidance on the proper procedures for compliance with the repeal.

Carried

- k) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **132/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Recreation Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on March 4, 2025 be approved.

Carried

- l) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **133/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **2024 Sewage Report**

THAT Council have received and read the 2024 annual Performance report for the McGarry Sewage Treatment Lagoon for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 prepared by Ontario Clean Water Agency.

Carried

- m) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **134/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Resignation**

THAT Council accept the resignation of Mary Walsh from the Recreation Committee effective immediately.

Carried

- n) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **135/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **I-Create End-of-Life**

THAT Council have received and read the Report for the end-of-life and agree with Staff to accept proposal from Catalis which includes:

- Implementation - \$1,000.00
- Year 1 - \$4,000.00
- Year 2 - \$4,240.00
- Year 3 - \$4,494.40
- Year 4 - \$4,764.06
- Also includes 20 hours of design and up to 300 pages migrated.

Carried

9. Passing of Accounts:

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**136/2025
Accounts**

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

MARCH 2025:

Payroll: \$ 34,159.03
General: \$ 1,498,809.08

Carried

10. Passing of By-Laws: None

11. Reports of Municipal Officers and Members Verbal Update:

- Municipal Officers, Mayor and Council gave a verbal report.

12. Question Period:

- A question period was held.

13. Closed Meeting:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**137/2025
Closed Session**

THAT Council goes into closed session at 6:42 p.m. under the Municipal Act 2001. C25, s 239, Section (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**138/2025
Out of Closed Session**

THAT Council come out of close session at 6:57 p.m.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

**139/2025
Bookkeeper Probation**

THAT Michelle Tweedy has successfully concluded her probationary period and is hereby employed as a full-time employee effective April 1, 2025 and that she brought up to Step 1 of the Pay Grid.

Carried

14. Confirmation By-Law:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

140/2025
By-Law 2025-17

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 8th day of April 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-17.

Carried

15. Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

141/2025
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Carried



MAYOR Deputy



CLERK-TREASURER